

Transportation Conformity Working Group Interagency Consultation Meeting Summary

**Tuesday, December 20, 2005
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Southern California Association of Governments
818 W 7th Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Riverside 'A' Conference Room**

The following minutes are intended to summarize the matters discussed.
An audiocassette tape of the actual meeting is available for listening in SCAG's office.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Ty Schuiling, SANBAG

2.0 WELCOME AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE:

In Person:

Naresh Amatya, SCAG
Grace Balmir, FHWA/FTA
Jennifer Bergner, OCTA
Sheryll Del Rosario, SCAG
Jessica Kirchner, SCAG
Philip Law, SCAG
Ken Lobeck, RCTC
Jean Mazur, FHWA
Sylvia Patsaouras, SCAG
Ty Schuiling, SANBAG
Eyvonne Sells, AQMD
Arnie Sherwood, ITS/UCB
Leann Williams, Caltrans

Via Teleconference:

Mike Brady, Caltrans Headquarters
Sandy Johnson, Caltrans District 11
Ted Matley, FDA Region 9
Karina O'Connor, EPA Region 9
Lisa Poe, SANBAG
Dennis Wade, ARB
Carla Walecka, TCA

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments at this meeting.

4.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Ty Schuiling, SANBAG, stated that he attended the kick off meeting of the AQMP Advisory Committee on December 7th (as did several other TCWG members). At the meeting there was a discussion with AQMD staff about the need to involve the District in some of the Goods Movement strategies for the region.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Approval of the November 22, 2005 Meeting Summary

Eyvonne Sells, AQMD, requested that in the 6.4 AQMP Update, the last sentence of the first paragraph to be removed. The AQMP Working Group Advisory meeting will begin late December, early January. Additionally, there were some issues and topics discussed under the TCM Update, Item 6.1, that are relevant to the summary. Specifically, the FHWA comments regarding the emission reductions identified in the TIP and the RTIP guidelines comments that were made, and the specific issues that were raised in the TCM discussion need to be identified specifically based upon the agencies comments.

MOTION was then made to ACCEPT the Meeting Summary Minutes as AMENDED.

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 RCTC TCM Replacement (Ken Lobeck, RCTC)

Ken Lobeck, (RCTC) stated that RCTC is proposing to substitute a three bus expansion project in the City of Corona. The City had planned to add additional buses but is not going to go forward now because there is no demand for it. He provided some background to the project stating that the City of Corona implemented two lines, the Green and Blue Lines, with plans to implement a third line which would program three expansion bus lines for the Red Line. After seventeen months, the Green Line did not have sufficient ridership and the City of Corona did not see the need to expand service for another three to five years. Corona then went forward and implemented the Red Line and deleted the Green Line. Since that time Corona has been trying to determine whether or not to implement the third line. At the same time, around late 2003, RCTC proposed to work with Corona to see if they could modify their routes and provide them increased services without having to procure extra buses. In May 2005 Corona came back to RCTC to relinquish the funds them. Therefore it is necessary to replace the TCM.

RCTC is now proposing a park and ride facility as the substitution. It is located at an existing church parking lot on Ontario Avenue and will provide 60 spaces which will be leased on an annual basis and maintained as a joint operation. Negotiations for an additional 40 spaces across the street are currently in process. Based on SCAG's emissions analysis it has been determined that the proposed park and ride lot will provide adequate emissions benefits to replace the existing TCM. In addition the proposed replacement meets the requirements for a TCM replacement. RCTC is looking at a February 2006 implementation so the project will be in the RTIP. This would be the last memo RCTC is planning as part of the 2004 RTIP.

Grace Balmir, FHWA/FTA, stated that she would suggest a more comprehensive look at building the ridership base to attract people to the area and ensure long term usage of the park and ride. Mr. Lobeck responded that they hope to create demand and then build a

permanent facility. The current proposal would be a short term solution while Corona attempts to find a long term facility. In addition, RCTC is working with Corona to determine what they will have the need for in the future. Ms. Balmir then requested that SCAG change the Legal Authority line that states RCTC has full legal authority to construct and operate the replacement project to RCTC have the full legal authority to replace the project.

Mike Brady, Caltrans, stated that an annual lease is not permanent and what was needed was a written commitment once this is installed to maintain that kind of park and ride capability in that vicinity as a minimum for some reasonable amount of time until something permanent is put in. Mr. Lobeck responded he would program multiple years in the TIP based on the cost through 2008-09.

Arnie Sherwood, ITS/UCB, stated that the question has been raised in the past as to what TCMs should be in the next SIP. Mr. Sherwood questioned whether small projects such as the Riverside project should be included as TCMs at all. Eyvonne Sells, AQMD, stated that since Mr. Sherwood identified the working group and because these continue to come up, she thought it was important that the group identify a schedule for working group meetings. She pointed out the AQMP is currently in process as is the RTP. She added that as an agency the AQMD has to be concerned with the TCMs because it is a major part of the plan. She then urged the Committee to recognize the importance of the TCM working group and identify a schedule for meeting to discuss the issues. Chair Schuiling, SANBAG, stated that as he recalled the TCWG members had previously agreed that the TCM working group discussions ought to be moved to the TCWG. The Committee members concurred this. Sylvia Patsaouras, SCAG staff, added that SCAG was hiring an air quality person that was going to start on January 9th and he would be a very active participant in the discussions for the TCM input for the SIP. She also added that any of the members of the TCWG that wished to participate would be welcome. Chair Schuiling stated that this needed to be brought forward as an agenda item for discussion at the January TCWG along with SAFETEA-LU guidance on TCM substitution.

6.2 RTP Update (Naresh Amatya, SCAG)

Naresh Amatya, stated that staff was moving forward with the four-year cycle. Staff went to the TCC on December 1st and got their endorsement on this process. Initial concerns included the fact that the conformity on the current RTP would expire in June of 2007 and at this time SCAG has not received guidance from FHWA on what would occur during the one year grace period as described in SAFETEA-LU. At this point the implementing agencies are also moving forward in utilizing the grace period and if this works out there should not be any further issue in terms of moving forward with this four-year cycle. Therefore, staff will be developing a Draft RTP to be released for public comment by fall of 2007 and a final plan to the Regional Council in April 2008.

Staff did clarify to the TCC when the Committee endorsed the recommendation to go with the SAFETEA-LU four-year period that there was some risk associated with the ability to amend the TIP during that one year grace period. It is SCAG's position that it is not at all clear that administrative amendments could not take place, however, that is something that needs to be clarified and it may require legislative relief to know what exactly the grace period would entail.

Jean Mazur, FHWA, stated that her office had talked about formally forwarding to all the MPOs FHWA clarifying guidance on going to the four-year update cycle. Ms. Mazur will forward the guidance to SCAG staff and then it will be distributed to the TCWG members. The item will also be included on the January TCWG agenda for further discussion.

6.3 RTIP Update (Rosemary Ayala, SCAG)

Update on the item was deferred until January 2006.

6.4 TCM Update (Jessica Kirchner, SCAG)

Jessica Kirchner, SCAG Staff, stated that Staff has asked all the CTCs to provide input and we have received information from all except for MTA. Once staff receives input from all the counties and has time to review the projects the list of TCMs will be brought to the TCWG.

6.5 2007 AQMP Update (SCAQMD)

Eyvonne Sells, AQMD, stated that the first AQMP working group meeting was held on December 7 where the upcoming strategies were outlined. SCAG participated and reported on the RTP and the intent to use the four-year planning cycle that was provided for in SAFETEA-LU. The meetings are currently scheduled to be held on the second Tuesday of every month. The main meeting for the actual AQMP working group will be held in February 2006 but the modeling group will be meeting in January to work out some of the data issues that have identified. Chair Schuiling stated that among other things there were updates on the new federal standards, the deadlines for attainment, and there was discussion about the District and ARB considering re-designation of the south coast, it is currently severe seventeen status on ozone but might consider going to extreme for ozone. There was also considerable discussion about the contribution of Goods Movement to the air quality issues in the south coast air basin and the need to focus on mitigating the impacts of Goods Movement for purpose of demonstrating attainment.

The input to the next AQMP is going to be primarily based on the 2004 RTP which is the adopted document at this point. However, the law also requires use of the most current planning information therefore SCAG staff is making technical adjustments to the 2004 RTP for inclusion in the AQMP. Staff's adjusted data is due to the AQMP in the spring of 2006 and most likely it will warrant more action from SCAG, meaning it would have to go to the Board in March of 2006 or earlier. SCAG staff stated that any data supplied in the next few months would be preliminary.

6.6 Reauthorization Guidance (Jean Mazur, FHWA)

Jean Mazur stated that FHWA had a clarification to the Planning Guidance that had been released back in September which pertained to the four-year update cycle. Several other MPOs wanted to utilize this provision triggering the need for FHWA to provide additional guidance on that issue. As far as the conformity guidance, FHWA has not received it yet.

6.7 Information Sharing (Group Discussion)

Dennis Wade, ARB, stated that Kurt Cataros was appointed to be the Chief of the Air Quality and Transportation Planning Branch, ARB, the post which was formally held by Cynthia Marvin, and Cynthia is now the Chief in the Planning Division. Michael Benjamin has been appointed Chief of the Mobil Source Analysis Branch which is responsible for both on-road model and off-road emissions model at the ARB.

Sylvia Patsaouras, SCAG Staff, announced that Jonathan Nadler was going to be starting January 9th and he is going to be the new Air Quality and Conformity Project Manager at SCAG. She also took the opportunity to thank Chair Schuiling as this was the end of his tenure as Chairman of the TCWG. Jennifer Bergener, OCTA, will be taking over as Chair next year. Additionally Sheryll Del Rosario was introduced as a new Staff person who will be working in Air Quality as well. She will be working in the Air Quality Component over the RCP and also on the EIR for the RTP.

Jean Mazur, FHWA, added that there would potentially be potentially PM 2.5 hot spot requirements for PM 2.5 non-attainment areas which would apply at the same time that the regional conformity, that is April of 2006. The guidance on what exactly these hot spots requirements are has not come out yet, so FHWA and EPA have been working on those regulations and some guidance to go along with that and would like to encourage any project sponsors that would have potentially need for approvals and any other project approvals after that April date to let FHWA know if they anticipate this being a problem for your project.

Mike Brady, Caltrans Headquarters, mentioned that Statewide Conformity Working Group was meeting in Sacramento at ARB at February 2, 2006, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11 A.M. The next meeting of the TCWG will be on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at the SCAG office.

